

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A capsule filling machine for the production of hard gelatin capsules of the type with a capsule lid and a capsule body containing micro-tablets or pellets, the machine comprising:

a first rotary carousel, which supports a plurality of slide units for picking up and handling the capsules in order to open then close the capsules by separating then joining the capsule lids and the capsule bodies; a second carousel, which rotates in such a way that it is synchronized with the first carousel, having a plurality of hollow nozzles each having a plurality of seats on a lateral surface thereof for picking up and holding the micro-tablets or pellets, each hollow nozzle moving between a first operating position in which the hollow nozzle picks up the micro-tablets or pellets from a tank containing the micro-tablets or pellets which is attached to the machine and a second operating position in which the hollow nozzle releases the micro-tablets or pellets into the capsule bodies;

wherein each seat of each nozzle communicates with pneumatic vacuum means which, in the first operating position, suck up and hold individual micro-tablets or pellets in respective seats of the nozzle, and also communicates with pressurized pneumatic means which generate a flow that discharges the micro-tablets or pellets from the seats in the second operating position to allow the above-mentioned release into the capsule bodies.

2. (Previously Presented) The capsule filling machine according to claim 1, wherein the seats on the lateral surface of each nozzle are arranged on the lateral surface of the nozzle separated by angular spaces that are equal and relative to a longitudinal axis of the nozzle.

3. (Previously Presented) The capsule filling machine according to claim 2, wherein the angular spaces have an angle equal to 120° between adjacent seats.

4. (Previously Presented) The capsule filling machine according to any of the foregoing claims from 1 to 3, wherein the first carousel has a substantially funnel-shaped chamber designed to engage with the nozzle in the second operating position, allowing and facilitating micro-tablets or pellets infeed into the capsule body.

5. (New) A capsule filling machine for the production of hard gelatin capsules of the type with a capsule lid and a capsule body containing micro-tablets or pellets, the machine comprising:

a first rotary carousel, which supports a plurality of slide units for picking up and handling the capsules in order to open then close the capsules by separating then joining the capsule lids and the capsule bodies; a second carousel, which rotates in such a way that it is synchronized with the first carousel, having a plurality of hollow nozzles each having a plurality of seats on a lateral surface thereof for picking up and holding by suction the micro-tablets or pellets, each hollow nozzle moving in a vertical direction between a first operating position in which the hollow nozzle is immersed

inside a tank, attached to the machine, containing the micro-tablets or pellets for picking up the micro-tablets or pellets and a second operating position in which the hollow nozzle releases the micro-tablets or pellets into the capsule bodies which are moved in an horizontal direction and placed under the hollow nozzle by the first carousel;

wherein each seat of each nozzle communicates with pneumatic vacuum means which, in the first operating position, suck up and hold a single individual micro-tablet or pellet in a respective seat of the nozzle, and also communicates with pressurized pneumatic means which generate a flow that discharges the micro-tablet or pellet from each seat in the second operating position to allow the above-mentioned release into the capsule bodies.